

THE
T R U T H
OF THE
Christian Religion,

WITH THE
Falshood of all other *Re-*
ligions prov'd,
To the Capacity of Children
and Vulgar People.

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THE
T R U T H
OF THE

Christian Religion, &c.

Of Religion in general.

Quest. **W**HAT do you mean by
Religion?
Answ. The Service of God.

Quest. How many Gods are there?

Answ. There are many, which Ignorant People call Gods; but there is but one only true God, who is to be Worship'd and Serv'd by Us.

Quest. What do you mean by the True God?

(4)
Ans. I mean an Eternal Being
that made and governs [*The very Heathen*
the World. *agree in this.*]

Quest. *Why is this Being only to be*
Worship'd and Serv'd by Us?

Ans. For two Reasons; First,
Because he that made, and governs
the World, is alone sufficient for all
the Ends of our Worship and Service.
Secondly, Because he alone can have
a Right to them.

Quest. *How is he alone sufficient?*

Ans. Because he that made and
governs the World, must be able to
do all Things, and therefore able to
do every Thing that is necessary to
the Happiness of the World.

Quest. *How hath he alone a Right to*
our Worship and Service?

Ans. Because He having made us,
we are His; and as He governs the
World, to him only can belong our
Prayer and Praise, by whose Provi-
dence alone we receive what we
want.

Quest. *How many Religions are there?*

Ans. Many False, and but One
True Religion.

Of

Of True Religion.

Quest. **W**hat is True Religion?
 Answ. To serve the True God
 in a true Way.

Quest. *What is the true Way of serving the true God?*

Answ. To serve him according to his own Will.

Quest. *How can you know when you serve him according to his own Will?*

Answ. Either by his Nature, or his Word, which is his revealed Will.

Quest. *What is the Nature of God?*

Answ. He is a wise and holy, just and true, good and merciful Being. (a)

(a) This need not be prov'd, because all the World agree in it.

Quest. *How do you know by this, when a Religion is agreeable to his Will?*

Answ. When 'tis suitable to his Nature, both in its Doctrines and Rules.

Quest. *What then must be the Nature of all true Religion?*

Answ. The Doctrines of it must be suitable to the Wisdom and Holiness, the Justice and Truth, the Goodness

and Mercy of God; and the Rules of it must teach us to be like God.

N. B. *By this we have a certain Standard to try all Religion by, from the Natural and Universal Notions of the Divine Nature.*

Quest. *Another way of knowing when you serve God according to his Will, is by his Word or reveal'd Will: Where have you the Word of God, or his Will reveal'd to You?*

Ans. God has reveal'd his Will to us in that Book, which we call the Holy Scriptures.

Quest. *How do you know that the Scripture contains the Will of God?*

Ans. For two Reasons; First, Because the Doctrines of it are suitable to the Nature of God, and its Rules teach us to be like him. Secondly, Because that Book was written by Holy Men sent by God to declare his Will to his People.

Quest. *How do you know they were sent by God?*

Ans. They shew'd it by their Works; some by Prophecy, some by Miracles, and some by Both. [This shall be further prov'd in its proper place.]

Of

Of False Religion.

Quest. **H**ow do you know when any Religion is False?

Ans. Two Ways, Either when we serve a False God; or when we serve the True God in a False way.

Quest. How do You know when You serve a False God?

Ans. Either when we serve any more than One God; or when we serve any other God, than Him who made and governs the World.

Quest. How do Men serve the True God in a false Way?

Ans. When their Religion is contrary to his Nature, or his Word, either in its Doctrines or Rules, (*that is, when they are contrary to True Wisdom and Holiness, Justice and Truth, Goodness and Mercy.*)

Of the several Religions that are in the World.

Quest. **H**ow many Religions are there?

Ans.

Answ. Four; The Heathen, Mahometan, the Jewish, and Christian.

Quest. *Are they all True?*

Anf. No; the Heathen and Mahometan are False.

Quest. *Who are the Heathens?*

Anf. They that serve many Gods; (*that is, many whom they call Gods.*)

Quest. *Why is their Religion False?*

Anf. Because they serve False Gods, (*that is, they serve those for Gods which are no Gods.*)

Quest. *How do You know this?*

Anf. Because there is but One only True God, [*and therefore all others beside him can be no God.*]

Of the Mahometan Religion.

Quest. **W** *Ho are the Mahometans?*

Answ. They who serve the True God in the Faith, and according to the Laws of the False Prophet *Mahomet*.

Quest. *Why do You say this is a False Religion?*

Answ. Because, tho' they serve the true God, yet it is in a false way.

Quest.

Quest. How do you know 'tis a false way?

Ans. Because many of its Doctrines are contrary to the Nature of God and his Will reveal'd in the Holy Scriptures. [*The Authority of which in a great measure they themselves allow.*]

N. B. The farther Proof of this, Children are not-Judges of, and therefore it must be left to their riper Understandings: This is sufficient to shew them what they are to enquire after in that Religion, and by what Rules they are to judge of it. See *Prideaux's Life of Mahomet.*

Of the Jewish Religion.

Quest. **W**HO are the Jews?

Ans. They who serve the true God according to the Law of Moses.

Quest. What is the Jewish Religion?

Ans. A Covenant between God and the Children of *Israel*, deliver'd by God to *Moses*, and by *Moses* to them.

N. B. Here 'twill be proper for Children to be
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(16)
put to read the account of Jacob's Name being
chang'd to Israel, and how his Children became a
Nation by going into Egypt, and living by them-
selves there, till God remov'd them into Canaan.
Gen. 32. 46. &c.

Quest. *Why were the Children of
Israel call'd Jews?*

Ans. Because they liv'd in the
Land of *Judea*, (which had its Name
from the Tribe of *Judah*) as we are
call'd English Men, because we live
in *England*.

Quest. *Is the Jewish Religion true?*

Ans. It was a True Religion; that
is, it was a Right way of serving God
heretofore, but is not so now.

Quest. *How do You know it was here-
tofore so?*

Ans. Because they own'd and serv'd
no other but the One True God, in
a True Way, according to his own
Will.

Quest. *How do You know the way they
served God in, was according to his own
Will?*

Ans. For two Reasons; First, Be-
cause its Doctrines were suitable to the
Nature of the True God, and its Rules
were

were intended to make them like God.

Secondly, Because it was reveal'd and appointed by God himself, in that it was deliver'd by God to *Moses*, and by *Moses* to the Children of *Israel*.

Quest. *How do You know it was deliver'd by God to Moses?*

Ans. By the Miracles which God wrought by *Moses*, and by the Wonders that were seen at his receiving it from God, as also by the Prophecies he spake, by which it appear'd he was sent by God. *

* N. B. Here it may be proper for the Reader to have Recourse to the several Chapters where these Miracles are mention'd, and Children should be made to read them, till they thoroughly understand them, and the Occasion of them, viz. Exod. VII, VIII, IX, X Chapters. Exod. XIV. Ver. 21. Exod. XVI. Ver. 15. Exod. XX. Ver. 24. Num. XI. Ver. 16. Num. XX. Ver. 31, 32. Num. XX. 8. &c.

Quest. *Might not Moses deceive the People in these Works?*

Ans. No, For several Reasons; First, Because the Nature of these Miracles was such that they could not be counterfeited. 2dly,

2dly, They could not be wrought by the Devil, because they were done in Confirmation of a Holy Religion, which was against the Devil's Interest.

3dly, They had the Testimony of the Magicians themselves, that they were wrought by the Finger of God.

4thly, There were several standing Miracles that went along with this Religion, after *Moses* was Dead, which confirm what *Moses* had done.

N. B. Here 'tis proper Children should be inform'd of the Urim and Thummim in the High-Priests Breast-plate. *Exod. XXVIII. 30. Of the Waters of Jealousy, Num. V. 18, 19. Of the double Increase every 6th Year. Lev. XXVI.*

Quest. Was there any other Proof of this Religion?

Ans. Yes, there was the Confirmation of many Prophets among the *Jans*, who not only wrought Miracles, but foretold many Things, that came to pass.

Quest. How does this prove the Jewish Religion?

Ans. It proves that those Prophets were

were sent by God; and because they confirm'd that Religion, we must look upon it as confirm'd by God.

Quest. *Where have you an Account of this Religion?*

Ans. In the Books of Moses.

Quest. *How are you Jure these Books give us a true Account?*

Ans. Because the Books were written for, and put into the Hands of those very Persons, who knew the Truth of all that was written; and were not only requir'd to read them in private, but had them read in publick every Sabbath-day.

Secondly, Because the whole Common-Wealth of the Jews was Establish'd upon this Foundation, and many burthensome Laws were imposed upon them, which they never would have submitted to, but upon their Knowledge of the Truth of these Things.

Quest. *How do You know these are the Books that were first written?*

Ans. They are allow'd to be so by the Jews themselves, and have been

convey'd down from *Moses*, from Father to Son, to our Time.

Quest. *How can you be sure they have not been alter'd?*

Ans. As much as I can be sure the Laws of any Kingdom have not been alter'd.

Quest. *Why do you say so?*

Ans. Because the whole Nation of *Jews* was govern'd, and their Rights determin'd by these Books in all Cases, as other Nations are govern'd by their own Laws; and therefore, 'twas every ones Interest to keep them from Alteration.

Quest. *If these Things be so, why is not this a Right way of serving God now?*

Ans. Because it was appointed only for the *Jews*, and that too only for a Time, till the Christ or promis'd Saviour should come.

See Deut. XVIII. 15. Jer. XXXI. 31. Jer. III. 16. Psal. CX. 4. Isa. XVIII. 21. LXV. 17. LXVI. 22. Gen. XLIX. 10. Mal. I. 3. IV. 2. Isa. LIX. 20. XLIX. 8. LXI. 1. Jer. XXIII. 6.

Quest. *Is this Christ or promised Saviour already come?*

Ans.

Answ. Yes; because the Time appointed for his coming is past, according to the *Jews* themselves.

Of the Christian Religion.

Quest. **W***HO are the Christians?*

Answ. They who serve the true God in the Faith, and according to the Laws of Jesus Christ.

Quest. *What is the Christian Religion?*

Answ. A new Covenant between God and Man thro' Christ, wherein there are several Mercies promis'd by God, upon some Conditions to be perform'd by Us.

Quest. *How do You know this is a True Religion?*

Answ. Because the *Christians* serve the One only True God, the Maker and Governour of the World, in a True Way, according to his own Will.

Quest. *How do You know they serve him according to his own Will?*

Answ. Because the Doctrines of this Religion are not only suitable to the

Nature of God, and its Rules teach us to be like God, but the whole was Reveal'd and Appointed by God himself.

Quest. How does it appear that this whole Religion was Reveal'd and Appointed by God himself?

Ans. By the Miracles that Jesus Christ wrought in Confirmation of it.

Quest. How do You know these Miracles were wrought by God, and not by the Devil?

Ans. Because they were contrary to the Devil's Nature, and Design.

Quest. How were they contrary to the Devil's Nature?

Ans. He is conceiv'd to be an Evil Spirit, whose whole Desire is to hurt Mankind; whereas Christ's Miracles were in their very Nature Goodworks, as being Works of Mercy and Charity.

Quest. How were they contrary to the Devil's Design?

Ans. It is the Design of the Devil to draw Men into Sin and Misery, whereas the Design of Christ's Miracles was to make us holy and happy.

Quest.

Quest. Did Christ do nothing but Miracles in Proof of his Religion?

Ans. Yes, He laid down his Life in Confirmation of it. -

Quest. But might not he die with a Falsehood in his Mouth?

Ans. No, Because he said, before he died, *That he would rise again the 3d Day*, as a Sign and Proof of his Authority, and according as he said, he did.

Quest. How are You sure he rose again?

Ans. Because he shew'd himself alive to many, to 500 Brethren at Once: He eat and drank with his Disciples, and conversed with them 40 Days together.

Quest. Did he give any further Proof of his Religion?

Ans. Yes, He ascended up into Heaven in the Presence of his Disciples, by which he shew'd, That God approv'd what he had done.

Quest. How do You know that he was in Heaven?

Ans. Because he sent down Two Angels to Testifie that he was there; and sent the *Holy Ghost* upon the *Apostles*. Acts, Chap. 1. and 2. B 3 Qu.

Quest. *What do You mean by the gift of the Holy Ghost?*

Ans. I mean divers Gifts and Powers given by the Operation of the Holy Spirit of God.

Quest. *How does the giving these Gifts and Powers, prove that Christ was in Heaven?*

Ans. Two Ways; First, As it was a fulfilling his Promise to his Apostles, (for he said he would go to Heaven, and would thence send the Holy Ghost the Comforter upon them, and bid them tarry at Jerusalem in Expectation of it.)

Secondly, As these Gifts and Powers themselves were an Evident Proof of their being given by God.

Quest. *What were these Apostles that had these Gifts?*

Ans. Twelve poor Ignorant Men, chosen out by Christ to preach His Religion to all Nations.

Quest. *Why did Christ make Choice of such mean Persons for this Great Work?*

Ans. He did it, as a farther Proof of his Religion, that it was not contriv'd and carry'd on by the Wit, or Power

Power of Men, but only by the Wisdom and Power of God, working with them in those Gifts.

Quest. What were those Gifts?

Ans. They were of divers Kinds, but chiefly they were the Gift of Knowledge, of Languages, and of Miracles.

Quest. What was the Gift of Knowledge?

Ans. A Power whereby they were enabled immediately to understand every thing necessary to be known, and to teach it to others.

Quest. How does it appear they had this Gift?

Ans. Because they were poor Ignorant Men, and yet taught such Things as the Learnedst Men never could attain to before, and which they themselves could not have known, had they not been taught by God.

Quest. What was the Gift of Languages?

Ans. A Power, by which they were enabled to speak any unknown Language, as they had Occasion for it in preaching their Religion. *Quest.*

Quest. How does it appear they had this?

Ans. They gave an Instance of it on the Day of *Pentecost* (*Acts* 1. 2.) and 'twas by the Help of this, they travelled and converted so many different Nations.

Quest. What was the Gift of Miracles?

Ans. A Power of doing any Work, that the Wisdom of God saw fit, for the Proof of their being sent by him.

Quest. How does it appear they had this Gift?

Ans. We not only read many Instances of it in Scripture, but it would have been impossible without this to have converted any Body to such a Religion as the *Christian* is.

Quest. Why do you say so?

Ans. Because the Apostles had such Difficulties to struggle with, as Nothing but the clearest Evidence of the Power of God, working with them, could overcome.

Quest. What were those Difficulties?

Ans. They were to overcome the strongest Prejudices that Education, Custom, Law, Vice and Interest could
give,

give, beside the utmost Opposition from the Princes and Powers of the World.

Quest. What was the Reason of this ?

Ans. Because this Religion was not only too Holy for that Vicious Age, but also was intended to overturn all other Laws and Rights of Religion in the World.

Quest. Where have you an Account of this Religion ?

Ans. In the New Testament.

Quest. How do you know these Books give us a true Account ?

Ans. Because they were all wrote, either by the Apostles themselves, or such Persons as were with them all along, and therefore were able to give a true Account.

Quest. But might not these Writers deceive the World ?

Ans. No, they neither would, nor could deceive.

Quest. Why do you say they would not deceive ?

Ans. Because they could have no Interest in it, but were exposed to the utmost Misery, which they knew would

would be the Consequence of what they taught, and at last Died in Confirmation of it.

Quest. Why do you say, they could not deceive ?

Ans. Because they not only liv'd in a Learned and Inquisitive Age, which would out of Curiosity, as well as Interest and Prejudice, examine the Truth of what they said; but they also liv'd in a Time of Peace, when People were at leisure for it.

Quest. How do you know these Books were written by those whose Names they bear ?

Ans. Because we are inform'd by History, that they were in the Hand of Christians in the Apostles days, and their Books, and have been preserv'd by all Christians e'er since, as theirs.

Quest. But may they not have been alter'd since that ?

Ans. No, because they have been constantly read among Christians in publick and private, as the standing Rule of all Christian Doctrine and Practice.

Quest. How does this prove they have not been alter'd ?

Ans.

Ans. Because there have been always Heresies and Divisions in the Church, and since all Parties appeal to these Books as their Rule, they have been all concern'd, not only to preserve the Books, but also to keep them from Alteration?

Quest. How do you know this has preserv'd them from Alteration?

Ans. Because we actually find they are the same in all Christian Churches at this Day, without any Material Difference.

Quest. What use ought we to make of this?

Ans. We ought to conclude, that these Books contain the Will of God; as being wrote by those who were Commission'd by him to reveal his Will to Mankind, and that all things in these Books are true.

Quest. If so, what will follow from thence?

Ans. That the Christian is the only true Religion, according to the Faith and Laws of which alone, we can serve the true God, so as to be accepted by Him.

F I N I S.



